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Hanafi urges Islamabad-based Afghan embassy to address problems of Afghan migrants

KABUL: Mawlavi Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate for Administrative Affairs urged the Islamabad-based Afghan embassy and consulates to make more efforts to address the problems of Afghan migrants in Pakistan, Arg said in a statement the other day.

According to the statement, Hanafi met with Sardar Ahmad Shakib, the ambassador of the Islamic Emirate to Pakistan, saying that Afghanistan and Pakistan have many commonalities and that the two countries can strengthen their relations based on these commonalities.

"The Islamic Emirate is committed to supporting Afghan refugees living in Pakistan and other countries of the world," the statement quoted Hanafi as saying.

Meanwhile, the Afghan ambassador to Islamabad said that Afghan diplomats and consulates in Pakistan are doing their best to address the problems of Afghan refugees.

Referring to the closure of the Torkham crossing by the Pakistani government for nearly twenty days, the Deputy Prime Minister underscored the importance of fortifying ties with Islamabad during this period of restricted movement.

The Kabul Times

More should be done for Afghan goods exports to Oman, Muttaqi

KABUL: The acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, Mawlavi Amir Khan Muttaqi, during his official visit to Oman, met with Badr Band Hamad Al-Busaidi that country's Foreign Affairs Minister to discuss the enhancement of bilateral political, economic, and social relations, the ministry said in a statement Tuesday.

Speaking at the meeting, Mawlavi Amir Khan Muttaqi highlighted that Afghanistan and Oman are ready to initiate a new era of bilateral relations, emphasizing the favorable investment ground in Afghanistan, particularly for Omani investors, according to the statement.

He outlined priorities such as facilitating the export of Afghan goods to Oman and the commencement of bilateral air services as key areas for collaborative efforts.

Meanwhile, the Omani Foreign Minister expressed his supportive stance towards Afghanistan's welfare and progress, affirming his commitment to reinforcing political, economic, trade, and overall bilateral relations with the country.

Stressing the importance of sustaining high-level exchanges between the two nations, he emphasized that necessary efforts should be made towards strengthening relations between Oman and Afghanistan in various fields.

The Kabul Times

Imposed sanctions on IEA officials should be lifted, Chinese UN permanent representative

KABUL: Fu Cong, the Chinese ambassador to the United Nations has urged the Security Council to lift sanctions imposed on the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan officials.

Speaking at the UNSC Briefing on Afghanistan, Fu Cong urged the council to amend the sanctions list to facilitate greater interaction with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

Emphasizing the importance of continued engagement with the Islamic Emirate, he stated that an increasing number of countries have initiated dialogue and cooperation with Afghanistan over the past year. "The Security Council should revive the travel ban exemption for the IEA's officials and timely amend the sanctions regime stemming from the 1988 resolution," Fu said, highlighting the need for improved international relations.

The 1988 Security Council resolution includes measures such as asset freezes, a travel ban, and an arms embargo on the Islamic Emirate.

Fu urged that these restrictions should not hinder humanitarian efforts, especially as a significant portion of the Afghan population remains in dire need of assistance.

The ambassador called on Western nations to reconsider their stance on halting humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

He continued to urge the Security Council to take timely reforms in sanctions against the Islamic Emirate as a crucial step towards building trust and reinstating exemptions from travel bans for the officials of the government in Afghanistan.

The Kabul Times

OIC representative emphasizes constructive dialogue, cooperation with IEA

KABUL: Tariq Ali Bakheet, the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Special Representative for Afghanistan, during a meeting with Jihad Erginay, the Head of the South Asian Department at the Turkish Foreign Ministry and former Ambassador to Kabul, emphasized constructive dialogue and continued cooperation with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), the OIC said the other day.

The OIC stated that the two sides discussed political, economic, and humanitarian cooperation with Afghanistan, as well as addressing existing challenges in these areas.

Tariq Ali Bakheet and Jihad Erginay underscored the importance of supporting the Afghan people and maintaining a constructive dialogue with the officials of the Islamic Emirate. Earlier, Bakheet, during his visit to Kabul, met with several ministers and officials of the Islamic Emirate, where he discussed a series of important issues and reaffirmed the OIC's commitment to providing comprehensive cooperation with Afghanistan.

The Kabul Times

Art exhibition 'Payam-e-Noor' held in Herat

KABUL: The Ministry of Information and Culture said Tuesday in a statement that a special exhibition of artworks titled 'Payam-e-Noor' has been held on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan in the country's western province of Herat.

Funded by the Kabul Steel Company, the exhibition was held by the Provincial Information and Culture Department, the Chamber of Industries and Mines, at the Allama Salahuddin Seljuqi Hall, the statement said.

During the exhibition, Mawlavi Ahmadullah Muttaqi, the head of Herat's Information and Culture Department, siad: "Herat is the cradle of authentic Afghan arts, and the artists of the province have been able to keep the country's cultural heritage alive."

Calling the province the home of the country's artists, Muttaqi said that authentic Afghan arts are still alive and thriving in Herat.

Meanwhile, the director of the National Gallery stated that 75 works of art have been created and displayed in this exhibition by 40 master craftsmen in the fields of painting, illumination, and various types of calligraphy.

On the other hand, the artists participating in the exhibition welcomed the holding of such programs, emphasizing the need for greater support for national arts, saying that the continuation of such exhibitions can pave the way for further growth and flourishing of authentic arts.

The Kabul Times

Four hangars to be constructed at Abu Nasr Farahi Customs

KABUL: Construction work has been kicked off on four hangars worth 71.8 million Afghani at Abu Nasr Farahi Customs, the Ministry of Finance said in a statement Tuesday.

According to the statement, the hangars will be financed by the ministry's development budget and will be completed within 10 months.

It should be said that each hangar will have the capacity to accommodate 5,000 metric tons of goods at a time, which, upon completion, will provide many conveniences to traders in the safekeeping of their trade goods. **The Kabul Times**

Tens of tons of expired materials collected in Kabul, ministry

KABUL: The Ministry of Public Health said in a statement Tuesday that tens of tons of low-quality and expired medicines, food, and sanitary materials have been collected in various districts of Kabul city.

As part of the Ramadan monitoring plan, a joint team from the ministry's Food and Drug Deputy Office conducted inspections across 140 wholesale food outlets in various districts of Kabul, collecting a substantial quantity of expired products including non-alcoholic beverages, biscuits, cakes, dairy items, mineral water, and similar goods.

Led by the Food Safety Directorate in collaboration with the Surveillance, Analysis, and Monitoring Departments, the inspection has been conducted in the 4th, 5th, 10th, and 11th districts of the city, the statement added.

To ensure the health of the citizens, the ministry has been making its best efforts to curb the sale of unauthorized and expired food products, and sanitary materials and put them on fire nationwide.

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Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

Transparency in teachers' recruitment a must

As its crystal clear transparency and observing professionalism are the most important factors behind quality education in the country. This is while thousands of bachelor and university graduates are waiting for jobs countrywide.

Transparency in the recruitment of teachers and professionalism helps advance education with both theoretical and practical teachings by the teachers of the same subjects, as most of the country's education institutions are still facing low-quality educational services.

Most of the country's schools lacked professional teachers, particularly in the country's remote provinces.

In most remote provinces, particularly at the district-level, teachers who have learned religion are hired to teach history, literature, or other social subjects, besides subjects of their own fields.

However, they are filling the gaps, as if they were not required, the schools would long be waiting for professional teachers, the access to which would be impossible.

There can be seen a few number of professional teachers in a school, where the students interested in modern sciences complain that they are fed up with the ongoing poor teaching quality as unexperienced school graduated individuals are teaching them unsatisfactory.

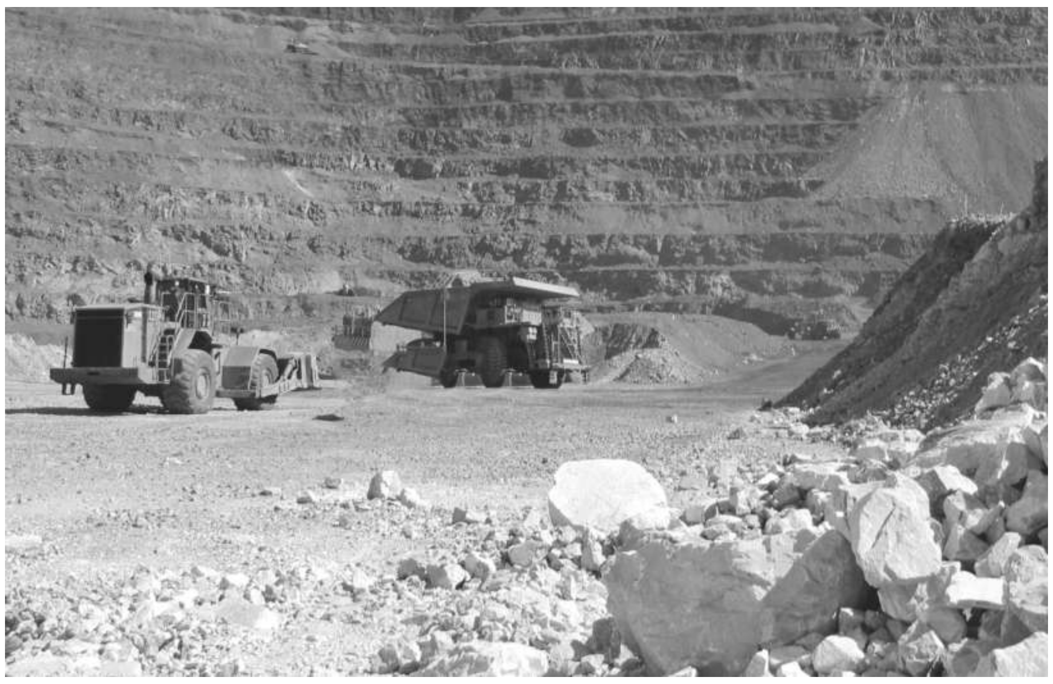
Textbooks, particularly those of history, Dari, Pashto and English languages are taught by non-professional instructors who have wide grammatical and spelling errors with no attention from the related organs, including the same educational leadership, has so far been paid to the problem.

The Ministry of Education has recently pledged to provide quality educational services by transparently recurring professional teachers for the schools of the country.

This can be good news for the entire students from elementary to high schools, including government-controlled and private ones, but needs practical steps in the plan's implementation. The government should accelerate the implementation of the plan across the country as the new educational system is due to arrive.

Approval of 11 major mining projects: A strategic path to Afghanistan's economic self-sufficiency

By: Hashmat Nasiri



Afghanistan, endowed with vast natural resources, is actively pursuing economic self-sufficiency by developing and utilizing its mineral reserves.

Following the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate, concerted efforts have been undertaken to attract domestic and international investment, implement large-scale infrastructure projects, and ensure the efficient and sustainable utilization of the country's mineral wealth.

The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, as a key sectoral entity within the government, has made significant strides in this regard. Over the past three years, the ministry has signed more than 200 mining contracts with both small and large enterprises.

These agreements have played a pivotal role in boosting the national economy, facilitating infrastructure development, and generating employment for over 150,000 individuals. The contracts encompass the extraction of copper, lead, zinc, iron, coal, and natural gas, with total investments in large-scale mining operations reaching approximately $7 billion. This initiative underscores the government's commitment to fostering the development of Afghanistan's mining sector and maximizing the benefits of its natural resources.

Recently, the Economic Deputy Office of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan announced the approval of 11 large-scale mining projects set to commence in 1403 (2024–2025).

These projects include: Yatim-Taq Cement Project - in Jawzjan Province, Salt Mine Projects in Maymana and Andkhoy - Faryab Province, Salt Mine Project in Darzab - Jawzjan Province, Dara-e-Noor Marble Mine Project, in Shah Wali Kot District - Kandahar Province, Chromite Mine Development Project- Logar Province, Taimani Laman Coal Mine Project - Badghis Province, Kashk and Tirpul Gas Basin Project - Herat Province, Tuti Maidan Gas Field Project - Faryab Province, Loy Jangal Gas Basin Project - Jawzjan Province, and Altamur Cement Project in Logar Province.

The implementation of these projects is expected to play a transformative role in Afghanistan's economic self-sufficiency, contributing significantly to national economic growth and driving tangible improvements in the social and economic well-being of the people.

Key Mining Projects and Their Economic Impact

1. Yatim-Taq Cement Project – Jawzjan Province: This project stands as one of Afghanistan's most ambitious industrial initiatives, designed to bolster domestic cement production and employment opportunities.

On October 30, 2024, the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum formalized a $163 million agreement with the Turkish firm (77 Turkish) for the establishment of the cement plant. Under this 30-year contract, the company will invest in exploration, extraction, production, and community development programs.

With a daily production capacity of 3,000 tons of cement, the project is expected to create over 1,200 direct jobs.

This initiative represents a strategic step towards reducing Afghanistan's reliance on cement imports and strengthening domestic industrial capabilities.

2. Salt Mine Projects – Faryab and Jawzjan Provinces: The mining projects in Maymana, Andkhoy, and Darzab have been awarded to a private entity under a 15-year contract valued at $24 million. Spanning 14 square kilometers, these mines are projected to yield a daily output of 2,500 tons of salt, creating employment for approximately 1,000 individuals.

3. Dara-e-Noor Marble Mine – Kandahar Province: Located in Shah Wali Kot District, this initiative marks a substantial investment in Afghanistan's marble extraction and processing sector. On February 12, 2025, the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum entered into a $6.2 million agreement with the Turkish company (Emioglu).

The 30-year contract encompasses 3 square kilometers and is designed to ensure marble extraction and processing in line with global industry standards, enabling the export of high-quality marble to international markets.

4. Chromite Mining Project – Logar Province: In 2023, a five-year contract for the extraction of chromite in Azrah District was awarded to a domestic Afghan enterprise, which has pledged an investment of 151 million Afghanis.

Afghanistan possesses extensive chromite reserves, particularly in Logar, Khost, Wardak, Kabul, and Parwan provinces, with an average chromium content of 35% and iron content of 8%. This project is poised to enhance legal and structured mineral extraction while fostering economic expansion and employment generation.

5. Tuti Maidan Gas Field – Faryab Province: Among Afghanistan's largest recent investments in natural gas exploration and extraction, this 10-year, $1 billion agreement was signed on October 10, 2024, with Uzbekistan's (Eriyel Kam). The contract mandates an initial investment of $100 million within the first year, with a total commitment of $1 billion over a decade. Furthermore, the company is obligated to generate 100 megawatts of electricity from extracted gas within the first two years. This project is expected to significantly enhance Afghanistan's energy security while creating thousands of jobs.

6. Loy Jangal Gas Basin – Jawzjan Province: This strategic gas reserve ranks among Afghanistan's most significant energy resources, alongside Yatim Taq (Jawzjan) and Toti Maidan (Faryab). Several initiatives are already underway, including plans to supply natural gas to households in Mazar-e-Sharif to ensure sustainable energy distribution. The development of this basin is projected to make a substantial contribution to Afghanistan's energy independence and economic stability.

7. Altamur Cement Project – Logar Province: One of the largest investments in Afghanistan's cement industry, this 30-year, $145 million contract was signed on December 24, 2024, between the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum and (Afghan Sako), a private sector entity. The cement plant, located in Altamur, Logar Province, is designed to produce 2,500 tons of cement per day, generating hundreds of employment opportunities.

The project is aimed at reducing Afghanistan's reliance on imported cement, thereby advancing the country's industrial self-sufficiency and enabling potential exports to neighboring markets.

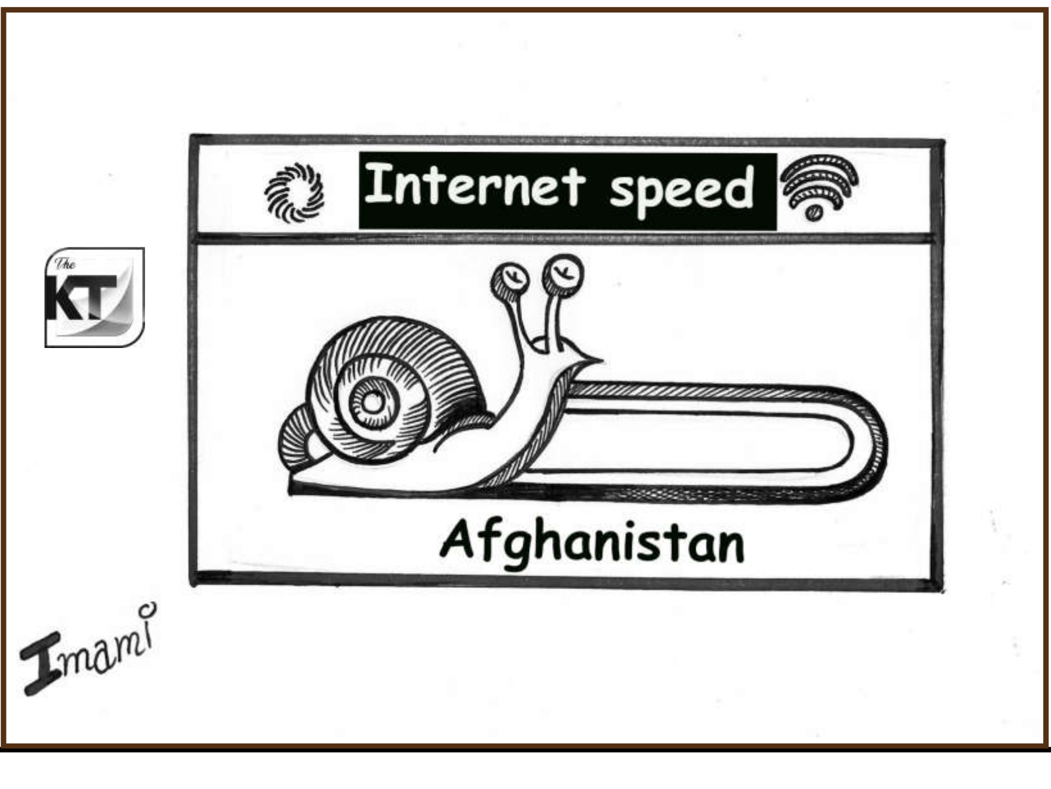
The Strategic Importance of Afghanistan's Mining Sector Afghanistan's mineral resources represent a cornerstone for economic growth, employment generation, and national self-reliance.

The mining sector serves as a critical revenue source for the government, facilitating foreign exchange earnings through the extraction and export of minerals.

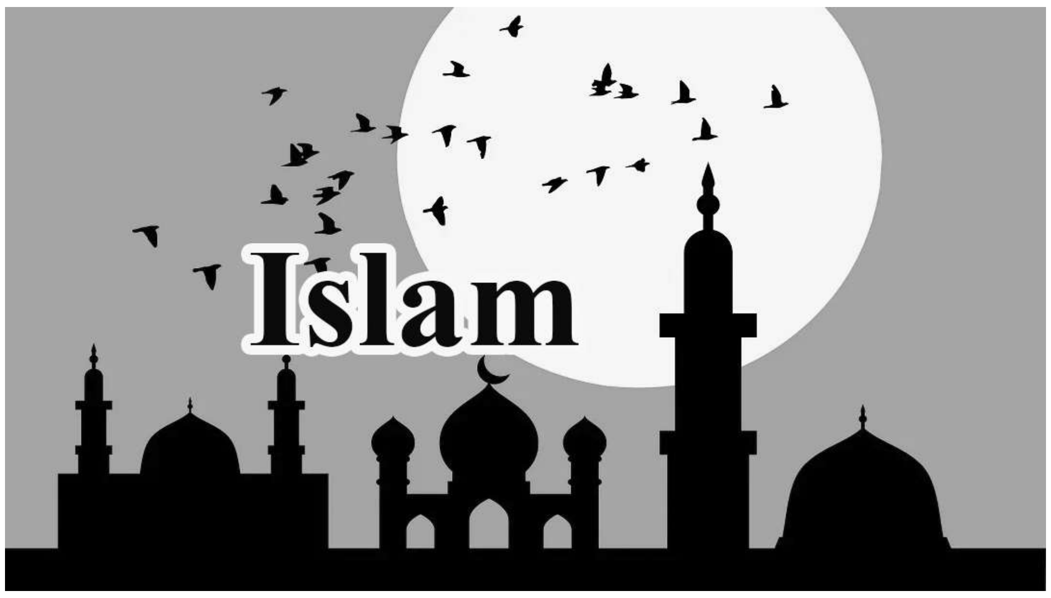
These revenues can be allocated toward infrastructure development, social welfare programs, and public sector advancements. The implementation of the above-mentioned large-scale mining projects is expected to enhance Afghanistan's legal and internationally standardized mining practices, fostering economic expansion and job creation across multiple provinces.

Ensuring nationwide security, fostering a conducive investment climate, generating economic opportunities, and improving public welfare remain top priorities for the Islamic Emirate.

The Islamic Emirate is committed to reducing Afghanistan's dependence on external sources and advancing practical measures to achieve economic self-sufficiency.



What makes Islam the true embodiment of bravery?



In contemporary global discourse, concepts such as humanity, justice, and bravery are often discussed in various ideological frameworks.

However, a closer examination reveals that these ideals find their most profound and practical embodiment within the teachings of Islam.

The ongoing resistance of Islamic warriors in Gaza has once again demonstrated this reality to the world.

Their actions have proven that many ideologies advocating for humanity are nothing more than illusory mirages, lacking the depth and sincerity required to withstand the trials of reality.

Islam, as a comprehensive way of life, is unique in its ability to merge justice with mercy, resistance with dignity, and struggle with unwavering faith.

This unparalleled characteristic has been vividly illustrated by the steadfastness of the Islamic fighters in Gaza.

Despite enduring unimaginable suffering, relentless bombardments, and severe shortages of essential resources, these individuals continue to uphold the principles of Islam, offering both moral and physical resistance against oppression.

Their perseverance in the face of adversity is not merely a display of defiance but an affirmation of the Islamic worldview that prioritizes honor, sacrifice, and the defense of human dignity over mere survival.

The idea of humanity, as propagated by various secular and ideological movements, often crumbles under the weight of political convenience and self-interest.

Many of the world's most powerful entities claim to champion human rights, yet their silence in the face of mass injustices reveals the contradictions inherent in their positions. The situation in Gaza serves as a clear testament to this hypocrisy.

While international institutions and governments speak of human rights, they fail to act decisively when such rights are violated on a massive scale.

In contrast, Islam provides a framework where standing against tyranny is not an option but a duty, a responsibility that transcends national, ethnic, and political boundaries.

One of the most striking aspects of Islamic resistance is its deep-rooted foundation in mercy and justice.

Unlike many contemporary struggles driven by vengeance and animosity, Islam commands its followers to uphold compassion even in the harshest of conditions.

The fighters in Gaza have demonstrated this through their efforts to protect civilians, maintain moral conduct in warfare, and prioritize the welfare of their communities despite the extraordinary challenges they face.

This Islamic ethos of combat stands in stark contrast to the indiscriminate violence that often characterizes modern conflicts.

It is this balance between strength and mercy that sets Islamic resistance apart, showing the world that true courage is not merely about retaliation but about upholding divine principles even in the most adverse circumstances.

Moreover, the resilience of the Islamic fighters in Gaza is a living example of the concept of Tawakkul (reliance on Allah). Their unwavering faith enables them to endure suffering with patience and hope, knowing that their struggle is not merely a worldly battle but a spiritual journey that carries immense rewards.

This reliance on divine support rather than material superiority is what has allowed them to challenge some of the world's most powerful forces with a strength that transcends physical limitations.

The broader message emerging from the ongoing struggle in Gaza is that Islam remains the ultimate beacon of true humanity and bravery.

While the world may be inundated with slogans of peace, justice, and human rights, it is within Islam that these ideals are fully realized and practiced.

The courage displayed by the fighters in Gaza has shattered the illusion that secular humanism or political diplomacy alone can establish justice.

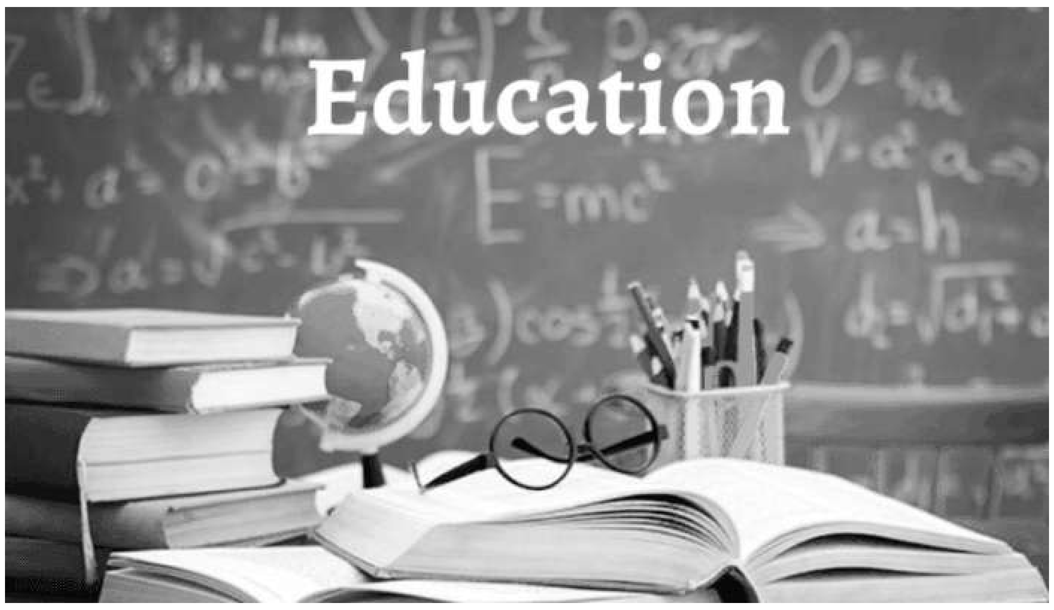
Instead, it has reaffirmed that only through the principles of Islam can one achieve a just and honorable stand against oppression.

The events unfolding in Gaza have provided the world with a clear and undeniable lesson: true humanity and manhood do not exist outside the framework of Islam.

It is Islam that creates mercy amid fire and blood, and it is Islam that stands with dignity against oppression.

The Mujahidin in Gaza have set an example for all, proving that while ideologies may falter, the divine guidance of Islam remains steadfast, leading its followers toward justice, honor, and ultimate victory. **Sayed Sharif**

From classrooms to factories; the impact of education on industrialization



Education has long been recognized as fundamental element in the process of industrialization.

As societies transition from agrarian economies to industrial ones, the need for a well-educated and skilled workforce becomes increasingly evident.

Industrialization brings technological advancements, economic growth, and improved living standards, but it also demands a workforce equipped with the knowledge and expertise necessary to operate complex machinery, develop new technologies, and innovate in various sectors.

Therefore, any government striving for economic prosperity must prioritize education and vocational training as a key component of its national development strategy.

One of the primary ways education contributes to industrialization is by fostering technical and vocational skills. Industrial sectors require workers who are not only literate but also proficient in specific trades such as engineering, mechanics, information technology, and manufacturing. Vocational education institutions play a critical role in equipping individuals with the practical skills required for industrial jobs.

Without a properly trained workforce, industries struggle to maintain efficiency, productivity, and competitiveness in the global market.

Moreover, education enhances innovation and technological advancement, which are essential drivers of industrialization. Countries that invest in research and development (R&D) through universities and technical institutions often lead in industrial growth.

Educated individuals contribute to scientific discoveries, technological improvements, and innovative solutions that can revolutionize industries.

Governments that encourage STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education help their nations stay ahead in the rapidly evolving global economy.

Another significant aspect of education's impact on industrialization is its role in shaping the workforce's adaptability. Industrial economies experience constant technological shifts, requiring workers to update their skills regularly.

Continuous education and lifelong learning programs ensure that employees remain competent and relevant in changing industrial landscapes.

Governments and private sector entities must collaborate to provide reskilling and upskilling opportunities, enabling workers to transition smoothly between industries or adopt new technologies effectively.

Furthermore, an educated workforce contributes to improved management and organizational efficiency in industrial enterprises.

Skilled professionals are better equipped to handle logistics, supply chain management, financial planning, and human resource management within industrial settings.

This leads to better decision-making, cost-effectiveness, and increased productivity.

A strong education system ensures that future managers and leaders have the strategic thinking and problem-solving abilities required to drive industrial success.

Governments play a crucial role in fostering an education system that supports industrialization.

Policies that promote free or affordable education, invest in technical training centers, and encourage partnerships between industries and academic institutions lead to sustainable economic growth.

Additionally, educational reforms that align curricula with industrial needs ensure that graduates are job-ready and possess relevant competencies.

Countries that have successfully industrialized, such as Germany, South Korea, and China, have all emphasized technical education as a key pillar of their development.

Education is an indispensable factor in the industrialization process.

It provides the necessary skills, foster innovation, enhance adaptability, and improve overall industrial efficiency. Governments that recognize the importance of education in economic development invest in their nation's future prosperity.

By strengthening their education systems, nations can build a skilled workforce capable of driving industrial progress, ensuring economic stability, and competing effectively in the global market.

Mukhtar Safi

Continued progress in development projects has led to economic growth in country

Afghanistan Ministry of Economy by confirming the most recent report of the United Nations Secretary-General has said that work progress in some development projects has led to economic growth in the country.

In the quarterly report of Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, on the situation in Afghanistan, from November 2024 to January 31, 2025, the Afghan economy has grown by 2.7 percent.

Based on the UN report, during this period, the value of the Afghani currency against the U.S. dollar has also increased by 15.7 percent. Meanwhile, Abdul Latif Nazari, Deputy Minister of Economy, says that ensuring national security, creating national solidarity and cooperation of the people with the Islamic Emirate have also contributed to the growth of the Afghan economy.

"Various factors play a role in the country's economic growth and development. The flow of national and international investments into the country, and job-generating economic projects are other factors that have led to the country's economic growth," Nazari said, adding that ensuring nationwide security, creating a national movement, and the people's cooperation with the system have also been effective in the country's economic growth.

In the meantime, economic analysts have called the UN Secretary-General's report promising and emphasized that the Islamic Emirate can pave the way for further economic growth by solving some fundamental problems.

Mohammad Issa Mubariz, an Afghan economic analyst, says that the growth of the Afghan economy depends on increasing domestic production, exports, strengthening the agricultural sector, implementing major economic projects, providing job opportunities, and attracting investment.

"We must have production within the country and the resources we have must be used properly, and agriculture in the country must be modernized. Currently, our agriculture has not changed, comparing to previous years.

It does not comply with global principles and standards," Mubariz said, adding that the better and more we produce agricultural products, the more we have exports, and this contributes to the country's economic growth.

In other part of Antonio Guterres' report, it stated that $2.42 billion is needed to help 16.8 million people in need in Afghanistan by 2025, but so far only 3.5 percent of this budget has been provided.

In response to this part of Guterres' report, the deputy minister of economy has stressed that economic issues should be kept separate from political issues.

"Our demand is that political issues should be separated from economic issues and that aid to the people of Afghanistan continue," Nazari said.

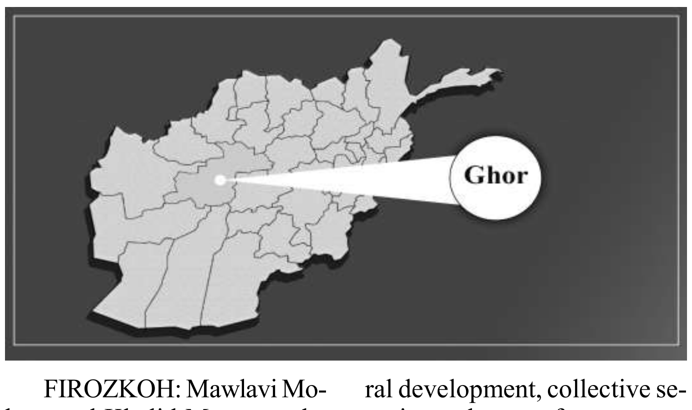
As Afghanistan is facing with humanitarian crisis, it is time that countries should not politicize humanitarian aid provided for the people of Afghanistan.

According to the country's Ministry of Economy, all aid provided to Afghanistan is in the form of humanitarian aid, and this aid is directly provided to the people and distributed to those in need.

This is while, most international aid agencies say that due to lack of funding, they cannot provide assistance to all those in need in Afghanistan.

On the other hand, following the suspension of U.S. aid, the aid delivery process of some international agencies in Afghanistan has been disrupted or stopped. **Fida Mohammad**

More than 30 development projects implemented in Ghor this year, official



FIROZKOH: Mawlavi Mohammad Khalid Mansour, the head of Economy of the country's western province of Ghor, said Tuesday that 36 development projects worth 167 million Afghani have been implemented within the current solar year.

The projects have been implemented in the sectors of infrastructure and natural resources, security, governance, rule of law, agriculture and rural development, collective security and state of emergency across the province, Mawlavi Mansour said.

He said: "15 infrastructure projects have been implemented from the development budget of the Islamic Emirate and the remaining have been implemented with the financial support of partner institutions".

During the implementation of the projects, hundreds of people have been provided with job opportunities, Mansour added, assuring the implementation of further development projects in the upcoming solar year across the province. **The Kabul Times**

Afghan advertisement

AA 9716

Missing Persons Announcement

A piece of residence permit form Kazakhstan named after HVMA Sidiqi Old Mohammad Yusof is missing and is invalid.

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Afghan boxer Zekria Zamani heads to Moscow for high-stakes fight

Afghanistan's renowned kickboxing champion, Mohammad Zekria Zamani, has set off for Moscow to compete against his Russian opponent in a highly anticipated match. The fight, scheduled for next Saturday night, will be held in the 63 kg weight category and will determine the winner of the prestigious EBP championship belt.

Zamani, known for his strength and resilience in the ring, has consistently represented Afghanistan in international competitions, earning recognition for his skill and dedication to the sport. His upcoming bout against a formidable Russian fighter marks another significant milestone in his career.

The Afghan fighter has been actively preparing for this match, undergoing rigorous training to ensure he is in peak condition. With a strong track record of victories, Zamani aims to bring home another achievement for Afghanistan's combat sports scene. His participation in such high-profile events highlights the growing presence of Afghan athletes in global competitions.

The EBP championship fight is expected to draw considerable attention from boxing enthusiasts and sports fans in both Afghanistan and Russia. Supporters of Zamani are hopeful that he will secure a decisive victory and further cement his status as one of Afghanistan's top fighters.

As the countdown to the match continues, excitement builds among Afghan sports fans eager to witness their champion showcase his talent on an international stage. Regardless of the outcome, Zamani's journey in kickboxing serves as an inspiration for young athletes in Afghanistan, proving that dedication and hard work can lead to success at the highest levels of competition. **The Kabul Times**

Afghanistan to compete in AFC Beach Soccer Cup

Afghanistan's national beach soccer team is set to participate in the upcoming AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup, which will be kicked off on the first day of April. The tournament, hosted by Thailand, will feature top teams from across Asia competing for the championship title.

Afghanistan has been placed in Group C, where they will face strong opponents, including the United Arab Emirates, Iran, and Indonesia. These teams have demonstrated impressive performances in past competitions, making the group stage a challenging but exciting test for the Afghan squad.

The AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup is a prestigious tournament that serves as a qualifying event for the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup. Competing in this tournament provides the Afghan team with an opportunity to showcase their talent on an international stage and gain valuable experience against high-caliber teams.

Afghanistan's beach soccer team has been preparing intensively for this event, with rigorous training sessions aimed at strengthening their skills and tactical play. The players and coaching staff are determined to put up a strong performance and make their mark in the competition.

Football fans in Afghanistan and beyond are eagerly anticipating the team's matches, hoping for impressive performances against their regional rivals. Regardless of the final results, Afghanistan's participation in such a major event highlights the growing presence of Afghan football on the international scene.

As the tournament approaches, excitement builds among supporters, with hopes that the Afghan squad will deliver competitive and spirited performances in their pursuit of success at the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup.

The Kabul Times

Al Nassr advances to AFC Champions League quarterfinals

Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr secured a spot in the quarterfinals of the AFC Champions League after a commanding 3-0 victory over Iran's Esteghlal in the Round of 16. The highly anticipated clash saw both teams battling for a place among the tournament's top eight. Al Nassr showcased their superiority throughout the match, controlling possession and creating numerous scoring opportunities.

The team's star player, Cristiano Ronaldo, opened the scoring, setting the tone for a dominant performance. John Durán further extended Al Nassr's lead by netting two additional goals, sealing a comprehensive win for the Saudi side.

Esteghlal, despite their efforts, struggled to break through Al Nassr's solid defense and failed to capitalize on their attacking chances.

The Iranian club's elimination from the tournament marks a disappointing end to their campaign, while Al Nassr moves forward with high confidence.

With this victory, Al Nassr advances to the quarterfinal stage, where they will face tougher competition in their quest for the AFC Champions League title. The team's strong display against Esteghlal highlights their potential as serious contenders for the championship.

Football fans worldwide eagerly await the next round, as Al Nassr continues its journey toward securing one of Asia's most prestigious club football titles. As the tournament progresses, all eyes will be on Ronaldo and his teammates as they aim to bring glory to Saudi Arabian football on the continental stage.

The Kabul Times

Russia calls for constructive, productive engagement with IEA

KABUL: The Russian diplomat and the current Permanent Representative of Russia to the United Nations, Vassily Alekseevich Nebenzia, called the other day for constructive and meaningful interaction with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

Addressing the UNSC Briefing on Afghanistan, Vassily Alekseevich Nebenzia said: "The Russian Federation has consistently advocated a realistic comprehensive approach to Afghanistan that should be premised on objective analysis and a balanced assessment of the situation. Such an approach should be based on constructive interaction within the international community on Afghanistan."

With due regard to the needs of the Afghans themselves, productive and constructive dialogue should be made with the Islamic Emirate on a whole host of pressing issues, without any blackmail or pressure that certain Western donors are so fond of, he urged.

Praising Roza Otunbaeva, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, for her assessment of the current situation in the country, Nebenzia said: "The Russian Federation has been consistently supporting the work by UNAMA under your leadership and in line with its mandate. We note Kabul's willingness to maintain and develop contacts with you. We welcome the unwavering commitment of the UN to maintaining its presence and providing the necessary assistance to the people of Afghanistan." However, contrary to the gloomy predictions of our Western colleagues, Afghanistan has withstood. In the face of unprecedented unilateral sanctions and a humanitarian crisis, the country, which has depended on international support for many years, did not slip into another civil war nor fall apart, he added.

The Russian Permanent Representative of Russia to the United Nations further said: "It is obvious that given the scale of problems and threats that piled up over the years of war, the people of Afghanistan need our sustained assistance and support more than ever. At the same time, we are delighted to see that the Afghans are seeking their independent path of development and ways to restore their economic potential while relying on regional cooperation."

The Kabul Times

Iranian company to invest in energy projects in country, ministry

KABUL: Officials of the Iran Transfo Group of Companies, during a meeting with Mullah Abdul Latif Mansour, the acting Minister of Energy and Water, said they are interested in investing in Afghanistan's energy projects, according to a statement from the ministry Tuesday.

Providing information about their activities and experiences, they stated that their group of companies is interested in investing in implementing energy production projects, developing energy networks, and providing equipment needed for power grids in Afghanistan, according to the statement.

Meanwhile, Mullah Mansour appreciated the interest of the companies in the investment in the country's energy projects, stating that it would be better to hold technical meetings between the technical teams of both sides to reach an understanding on the project identification, investment methods, and other necessary coordination in this regard.

The Kabul Times

Philippe Lazzarini, the commissioner-general of the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, has warned that the situation in Gaza is "deteriorating very, very quickly", more than a week after Israel again halted all supplies from entering the Gaza Strip.

"Whatever the intent is, it's clearly a weaponisation of humanitarian aid into Gaza," Lazzarini told reporters at UN offices in Geneva on Monday.

"It is critical that humanitarian aid is allowed into Gaza again to maintain the progress made during the first phase of the ceasefire and meet people's basic needs," he said, adding that there remains a risk of returning to the "deepening hunger" seen before the recent ceasefire.

Lazzarini heads up UNRWA, which has been mandated by the UN General Assembly to provide assistance to Palestinians, in Palestine and neighbouring countries, since December 1949.

The agency provides schooling and healthcare services, and could only be replaced by "capable Palestinian institutions" within "a Palestinian state", Lazzarini has repeatedly said, amid his agency being banned by the Israeli government.

Lazzarini told journalists that "a fierce disinformation campaign", legislation outlawing UNRWA in Israel's parliament and "the suspension of funding by key donors" have taken a toll on the agency.

He warned that UNRWA cannot be allowed to "implode".

"Collapse would create a dangerous vacuum in the occupied Palestinian territory and send shockwaves through Jordan, Lebanon and Syria," Lazzarini said.

"An environment in which children are deprived of education, and people lack access to basic services, is fertile ground for exploitation and extremism," he said.

"This is a threat to peace and stability in the region and beyond."

The agency's financial situation is also "critical and precarious", Lazzarini added.

Prior to January 26, 2024, the United States was UNRWA's largest funder.

Following accusations from Israel, the administration of former US President Joe Biden cut its contributions to UNRWA entirely, promising it would continue to provide aid to the Gaza Strip through alternative UN agencies, such as the World Food Programme, and non-government organisations.

However, according to The Times of Israel, US funding for Gaza's relief efforts may have been caught up in US President Donald Trump's administration's sweeping cuts to the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

While it is not clear exactly which USAID programmes are being cut, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio wrote in a post on X on Monday that "after a 6 week review we are now officially cancelling 83 percent of the programs at USAID".

Aljazeera

Moscow targeted by 'massive' Ukrainian drone attack: Mayor

Ukraine targeted Moscow with dozens of drones in a "massive" overnight attack, the city's mayor said on Tuesday.

"The Defense Ministry's air defense continues to repel a massive attack by enemy drones on Moscow," Sergei Sobyanin said on Telegram.

"As of now, the Defense Ministry's air defense forces have shot down 69 enemy drones flying toward Moscow," he added in a separate post.

At least one person was killed and three more wounded in the southern suburbs of the Russian capital, according to Moscow region governor Andrei Vorobyov.

He added that drone debris damaged at least seven units in a residential building in another suburb in the southeast.

The attack on Moscow, hundreds of kilometers from the Ukraine border, comes ahead of an expected meeting Tuesday between top US and Ukrainian officials in Saudi Arabia.

Ukraine is set to present the United States with a plan for a partial ceasefire with Russia, hoping to restore support from its key benefactor, which under President Donald Trump has demanded concessions to end the three-year war. The talks in Saudi Arabia will be the most senior since a disastrous White House meeting last month, when Trump berated Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for purported ingratitude. Since Trump's dressing down of Zelenskyy, Washington has suspended military aid to Ukraine as well as intelligence sharing and access to satellite imagery in a bid to force it to the negotiating table. Alarabiya